# EARTHQUAKE LAYS FRISCO IN RUINS.

## **Entire Business District** Burned and Hundreds of Lives Lost.

## MARTIAL LAW IN CITY.

The City Hall, Mint and All Great Buildings Reduced to Debris.

## PEOPLE FLOCK TO THE HILLS

Great Shock Just Before Dawn Starts a Conflagration.

BUILDINGS CRUMBLE AT ONCE.

## Stanford University Buildings Said to Be Wrecked Completely.

First Earthquake Shock Came at 5:13 A. M. -Houses Went Down Like Paper-Gas Mains Broke and Fires Started at Once -Water Mains Cracked and There Was No Way to Fight the Flames-Wind Sent the Fire Into the Business District and Soon the Palace Hotel and the Great -Chinatown and the Italian Quarter Denizens Fought in an Open Park -Great Rush to Secure Vehicles to Take Away Bank Securities and Household Valuables-Troops Called Out Complete Estimate of Loss of Life, but It May Run Up to a Thousand-Propcrty Loss May Be \$50,000,000.

The greatest earthquake disaster in the history of the United States visited San district was shaken down, and this was followed by a fire which is still burning and which has covered most of the affected

It is impossible now to say anything of the loss of life, since the city is practically cut off from communication with the world, but estimates vary from 500 to 1,000. The (00 and may reach \$100,000,000. Between the earthquake and the fire about all the business district is gone.

Although the whole city-was shaken up, the great damage by the earthquake was limited to the low and made lands which lie between the hills of San Francisco and which are occupied by business buildings, warehouses and, in the southern part, by cheap tenements. Happening at 5 o'clock in the morning, the earthquake caused practically no loss of life among the business houses, but the tenement houses, especially the cheap lodging houses, suffered severely in this respect. Directly afterward a fire started in seven or eight places, helped out by broken gas mains. The water system failed, and all through the morning the fire was fought with dyna-

The Palace and St. Francis hotels, where most tourists stay, escaped the earthquake, although the Palace was destroyed afterward by fire. Therefore New York people need have little anxiety for the safety of friends visiting San Francisco in the tourist rush. Almost all the greater buildings of San Francisco are lost. These include the City Hall, the new post office, the Call building, twenty stories high; the Parrott Building, housing the largest department store in the West; the Chronicle and Examiner buildings, the United States Mint, the whole plant of Stanford University at Palo Alto; the Grand Opera House and St. Ignatius's

fate of the Mutual Life Building, Merchants' Exchange and some of the hotels. The city is under close martial law, the whole garrison of

the Presidio and a regiment of militia being on guard. It is probable that most of the better residence district, situated on the hills, escaped and that the loss of life fell almost entirely on the poor of the tenement

About one-third of the area of the city, and that the most closely congested part, was ravished by the earthquake or swept by the fire.

### FIRE FOLLOWS EARTHQUAKES. Disaster Overwhelms the Metropolis of

OAKLAND, Cal., April 18.—The business part of San Francisco, across the bay. was shaken into débris at 5:13 o'clock this morning by an earthquake which ran over all the low lying parts of the city. It was followed by a fire which was still raging when all telegraph communication from the city was cut off and which will probably complete the ruin of the downtown business district and most of the tenement

Smaller fires have appeared throughout the residence district, and probably a great part of the city will go before it ends, for there is a strong southerly wind blowing and the water mains are all broken. No one can tell now how heavy is the loss of life. The setimates run from 500 to 1,000. It would be foolish to set any estimate of the life loss, for the city has been thrown into such confusion with the shook, the fall of the buildings and the uncontrollable fires that followed that no counting of the dead is possible.

The city is under martial law, so that it is almost impossible even to cross the streets. All that is known is that the morgue is choked with dead, and that the men are piling up corpses and injured people from trucks, express wagons and every conceivable vehicle. Just now the Hayes Valley, to the west of the Mechanics Pavilion, which early in the day was used as a temporary morgue, is afire and the big Church of St. Ignatius is burning.

The city is shaken every few minutes with the explosions of dynamite by which the firemen, in default of water, are trying to stop the fire. On foot-for there are no street cars running-the people from outlying districts are crowding to the hills which top the city, and the parks and streets until the troops came were alive with panic stricken Chinese. The fire has swept all the waterfront and the railroads which enter the southern part of the city by land are not running, so that the people of San Francisco are prisoners in a city which is still trembling with little minor shocks.

## BUILDINGS WENT DOWN FIRST.

The great shock which did the damage happened at 5:15 o'clock this morning, just about daybreak. Beginning with a slight tremor, it increased in violence every and older buildings in the business districts had fallen like houses of cards, the great steel buildings were mainly skinned of walls, and the tenement district, south of Market, was in ruins. In the Western Addition and the hills, where live the wealthy and well-to-do people, few houses went down; but the shock was so great that people streamed out into the streets, where the ground was still quaking from repeated small shocks which succeeded the great

Hardly were the people of the hill district out of their houses when the dawn to the east was lit up in a dozen places by fires which had started in the business district below. The first of these came with a sheet of flame which burst out somewhere in the warehouse district near the waterfront Men from all over the upper part of town streamed down the hills to help. No cars could run, for the cable car slots and the very tracks were bent and tossed with the upheavals of the ground.

## WATER SUPPLY RUINED.

The fire department responded. Chief Sullivan of the fire department was injured mortally by the cupola of the California Hotel, which had fallen through the roof of the fire house where he was sleeping. His assistant rang in a general alarm. The firemen, making for the nearest points, got their hose out. There was one rush of water; then the flow stopped. The great water main, which carries the chief water supply of San Francisco, ran through the ruined district. It had been broken, and the useless water was spurting up through he ruins in scores of places.

The firemen stood helpless, while fire after fire started in the ruined houses. Most of these seem to have been caused by the ignition of gas from the gas mains, which were also broken. The fires would rush up with astonishing suddenness, and then smoulder in the slowly burning redwood, of which three-quarters of San Francisco is built. When day came the smoke hung over all the business part of the city. Further out fires were going in the Hayes Valley, a middle class residence district, and in the old Mission part of the city.

## Dynamite was the only thing.

Mayor Schmitz got early to the centre of the fire. By that time the inhabitants were rushing through the streets, hampering the work of firemen and rescuers by their efforts. Chief of Police Dinan got out the whole police force, and Gen. Funston, acting on his own initiative, ordered out all the available troops in the Presidio military reservation. After a short con-Dewar's Scotch stands for whisky-purity.

\$51.75 TO LOS ANGELES AND RETURN Of San Francisco, via Pehnsylvania Ralirosd, April 24 to May 4. account. Shringers' Imperial Coun-cil. Consult ticket agenta.—Ade.

ference the town was placed under martial law, a guard was thrown about the fire, and all the dynamite in the city was commandeered.

The day broke beautifully clear. The wind, which usually blows steadily from the west at this time of the year, took a sudden veer and came steadily from the east, sending the fire, which lay in the wholesale district along the waterfront, toward the heart of the city, where stood the modern steel structure buildings, mainly stripped of their cement shells. An outpost of the flames ran along Market street, leaped New Montgomery and shot out toward the Palace Hotel. At the same time a steady fire coming up from the south attacked it from the rear.

The Palace, having perhaps 400 guests pesides its servants and house force, had stood the shock. The guests were all out before it came into danger and had either got across the bay before the fires cut off that means of egress or had fied to the hills. Part of the Grand Hotel was blown up in the attempt to stop the fire's advance. This checked it only for a time. By the middle of the morning the fire had

to the time of day when the earthquake THE CITY HALL GOES DOWN.

All this made of San Francisco a picturesque ruin, choked with débris, long before the fires finished it. Chief of the wrecked buildings was the great City Hall, a stone pile which cost \$7,000,000, and was nearly twenty years in building. Its dome fell. its walls were rent apart, and it is just a great jumble of fallen stone. It is reported that some of the police and of the emergency hospital force, who spend the night in the building, were hurt and killed

OTHER BUILDINGS GO.

Further down the street the new post office, a two million dollar building, was wrecked. The Call building, the tallest in San Francisco, did not fall, but part of its shell was stripped off. The roof of the Hobart Building fell in, but the Postal Telegraph operators, who occupied that building, stayed at their posts until they were driven out by the dynamiting of adjacent buildings. The top floor of the new Merchants' Exchange Building fell in. The great Mills Building stands, but is cracked the famous old hotel and was jumping and is unsafe, and the fire in that part of wood of which they are mainly built, seems on to the heart of the city, where on four of the city will probably finish it. The to have saved those parts of the town.

another spurt, and the fire caught the Call or more persons died of pure fright in that

WIND SWITCHES TO THE SOUTHWEST. Hardly was this burning and beyond hope before the wind switched to its normal southwest direction and the Chronicle building, across the street, caught fire. When this happened all the newspaper offices had been transferred to the Chronicle building, whose basement presses had somehow lasted through, and they were preparing to issue all the papers from the one office. Driven out of this last stand they took to the hills or tried to get out to Oakland and a telegraph wire to send out

SEVEN GREAT FIRES UNITE

This was only the main fire. There were about seven other great conflagrations, all of which, at this hour, seem to be uniting into one great fire which will sweep clean all the low lying parts of the city. The hills district where the well to do residents live was not spared and there were ten or twelve small fires there. In this part of the town there was some water from the hill reservoirs, and this, together with the slow burning quality of the red

three minutes, when there seemed no help in earth or heaven. There was a roar in the air like a great burst of thunder and from all about came the crash of falling walls. It died down at last, leaving the earth quaking and quivering like jelly Men would run forward, stop as another shock, which might be greater any moment seemed to take the earth from under their feet, and throw themselves face downward

on the ground in an agony of fear. SCREAMS AND SHOUTS OF THE PEOPLE It seemed to be two or three minutes after the great shock was over before people found their voices. There followed the screaming of women, beside themselves with terror, and the cries of men. With one impulse people made for the parks, as far as possible from the falling walls. These speedily became packed with people in their nightclothes, who screamed and moaned at the little shocks which followed every few minutes. The dawn was just breaking. The gas and electric mains were gone and the street lamps were all out. But before the dawn was white there came a light from the east-the burning warehouse district. The braver men, and

#### the assistants of the dead chief. PANIC IN PORTSMOUTH SQUARE.

those without families to watch over, struck

out, half dressed as they were. In the

early morning light they could see the

business district below them, all ruins

and burning in five or six places. Through

the streets from every direction came the

fire engines, called from all the outlying

districts by the general alarm rung in by

On Portsmouth square the panic was beyond description. This, the old Plaza about which the early city was built, is bordered now by Chinatown, by the Italian district, and by the "Barbary Coast," a lower Tenderloin. A spur of the quake ran up the hill upon which Chinatown is situated and shook down part of the crazy little buildings on the southern edge. It tore down, too, some of the Italian tenements. The rush to Portsmouth square went on almost unchecked by the police, who had more business elsewhere.

CHINESE BEAT THEIR GONGS. The Chinese came out of their underground burrows like rats and tumbled into the square, beating such gongs and playing such noise instruments as they had snatched up. They were met on the other side by the refugees of the Italian quarter. The panic became a madness. At least two Chinamen were taken to the morgue dead of knife wounds, given for no other reason, it seems, than the madness of panic. There are 10,000 Chinese in the quarter and there are thousands of Italians, Spaniards and Mexicans on the other side. It seemed as though every one of these, with the riffraff of "Barbary Coast," made for that one block of open land. The two uncontrolled streams met in the centre of the square and piled up on the edges. There they fought all the morning, until the Regulars

#### restored order with their bayonets. TAKING AWAY BANK SECURITIES.

As the dawn broke and the lower city began to be overhung with the smoke of Cabmen, drivers of express wagons and trucks, hired at enormous prices, began carting away from the lower city the valuables of the hotels which saw their doom in the fires which were breaking out. Even the banks began to take out their bullion and securities and, under guard of half dressed clerks, to send them to the hills, whence came to-day the salvation of San Francisco. One old nighthawk cab, driven by a cabman white with terror, carried more than a million dollars in currency and securities. Men, pulling corpses or injured people from fallen buildings, stopped to curse these processions as they passed. Time and again a line of wagons and cabs would run against an impassable barrier of débris where some building had fallen into the street and would pile up until the guards cleared a way through the

## VANDALS OFT TO WORK

Then the vandals formed and went to work. Routed out from the dens along waterfront, the drifters who have reached the back eddy of European civilization. crawled out and began to plunder. Early in the day a policeman caught one of these men creeping through the window of a small bank on Montgomery street and shot him dead. But the police were keeping fire lines, beating back overzealous rescuers from the fallen houses and the burning blocks, and for a time these men plundered

News of the plundering was carried early to Mayor Schmitz. It was this as much as anything which determined him, when Gen. Funston came over on the double quick with the whole garrison of the Presidio, to put the city under martial law. Orders were issued to the troops to shoot any one caught in the act of looting; and the same orders were issued to the First Regiment. National Guard of California, when they were mustered and called out later in the

And all this time, and clear up until noon, the earth was shaking with little tremors, many of which brought down walls and chimneys. At each of these the rescuers, even the firemen, would stop for a moment

had determined to stay by the stricken city to look for a means of escape by water. There are only two ways out of San Francisco; one is by rail to the south and down the Santa Clara Valley; the other is by water to Oakland, the Overland terminal, Most of the Californians trying to get out of the quaking, dangerous city, made by inthe shocks always travel heavily to the south, down the Santa Clara Valley. As for the Easterners, they had come by ferry and they started to get out by ferry. But when the half dressed people, carrying ridiculous bundles snatched up in time of panic, reached Montgomery street they found their way stopped by ten blocks of fire. They piled up on the edge of this district, fighting with the police, who held them back and turned them again toward the hi'ls. They must stay in the city. If it wen they went with it.

#### TROOPS STOP FLIGHT.

The troops ended their last hope of geting out of town. So great had been the disorder that as afternoon came on and the earth seemed to be quieting down they enforced strict laws against movement. This stopped a strange feature of the disaster-a run on the banks by people who wanted to get out their money and go. All the morning lines of dishevelled men had been standing in line before the banks on Montgomery and Sansome streets, ignoring the smoke and flying brands and beating at the doors. The troops drove these away, and the banks went on with their work of getting out the valuables

### COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FORMED

There is an open park opposite City Hall. Here, in default of a building, the Board of Supervisors met and formed, together with fifty substantial citizens whom they had gathered together, a committee of safety. They also set themselves to the problem of quarters for the dying and the dead Strangely enough, Mechanics' Pavilion, across from the City Hall, had escaped, although it is only a wooden building. But it has the largest floor in San Francisco and it was pressed into service at once. The police and the troops, working admirably together, passed the word that the dead and injured should be brought there, since the hospitals and morgue had become choked; and toward that point, in the early forenoon, the drays, express wagons and hacks, impressed as temporary ambulances, took their course.

There were perhaps four hundred injured people, many of them terribly mangled, laid out on the floor before noon. Nearly every physician in the city volunteered. and they got together enough trained nurses to do the work. There were fewer corpses; too busy were the forces of order in stopping the conflagration and caring for the living to care for the dead. One of the first wagons to arrive, however, brought a whole family-father, mother and three children-all dead except the baby: who had a terrible cut across the forehead and a broken arm. These had been dragged out from the ruins of their house on the

A large consignment of bodies; mostly of workingmen, came from a small hotel on Eddy street, through whose roof there fell the entire upper structure of a tall building next door. It made kindling wood of the two upper floors of the lodging house, which itself stood. Men from the neighboring houses, running along the streets, hear the cries and groans from this house and ran in. They reached the second floor, and through a hole in the ceiling there tumbled a man, horribly mangled about the head, who lay where he had fallen and died

Then there is a story, one of the almost incredible horrors to which we have listened all day, brought to the central police station by a man named Hussey. He told how he found in a burning building a man pinioned by the wreck and already scorohed by the flames; how this man begged of a policeman who stood by for release from his misery and how the policeman fired and missed. Then Hussey took a knife and severed an artery in the wrist of the sufferer, who bled to death. Hussey talked rationally, but the police locked him up until they can investigate.

## GROUND SUCKED HOTEL IN.

Later and unconfirmed news from the wreck of the Valencia Hotel says that the ground fairly sucked it in. The basement was full of water, so that when the resque corps got through the débris they found the bodies floating about, apparently as many drowned as crushed. They tell tonight of people thrown from windows and killed on the pavements below by the first great shake, of people crushed in the streets by the débris which fell from the upper stories of buildings. The people are so sickened by horror to-night that they are willing to believe anything.

As the day wore on and the wind changed the fire along the waterfront burned itself out and ran on further down south of Market street. This gave a comparatively clear passage to the Ferry building, and the troops permitted genuine refugees to pass to the Southern Pacific ferries, which were loaded down with people, many of them still half dressed. At nightfall the troops cut off this privilege, probably for fear of rioting and disorder. Now it is almost impossible to cross the street.

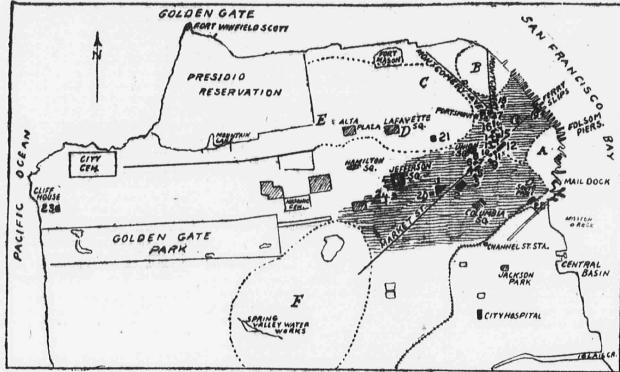
From the Oakland shore the whole down town district of the city appears to be burning, and the fire and smoke hide the hill district. Except for the fire the city is in darkness. The refugees coming over late report that the parks are filled with people sleeping out of doors under guard of the troops. It is said that about 20,000 people are lomeless.

Regarding the damage to points outside of San Francisco there is a mass of unconfirmed rumors. It is said that Napa, a city of 10,000, in the heart of the wine district. was shaken to the ground. We hear also that Stanford University at Palo Alto is down. There are reports of heavy damage from Solano, and San José, a city of 30,000, in

is The Twentieth Century Limited, the 18-hour frain between New York and Chicago by the New York Central Lines. Leave New York 230 P. M.; av-rive Chicago 8:30 next morning—a night, ride.—Ado

# FORT WINFIELD SCOTT

MAP OF THE STRICKEN CITY.



INDEX TO MAP:

Tinted section shows the whole area of low land probably most affected

8-St. Francis Hotel.

9-St. Patrick's Church

10-Call Building. 11-Examiner Building.

13-Chronicle Building.

15-Occidental Hotel.

17-Municipal Building

20-Mechanics' Pavilion

21-New Fairmount Hotel

24-St. Ignatius's Church.

22-Southern Pacific Freight Depot

23-Postal Telegraph Cable Station.

18-Custom House.

14-Lick Hotel

16-Russ House.

12-Palace and Grand hotels.

19-Ferry Building and Southern Pacific Station.

- A-Rincon Hill. B-Telegraph Hill.

- E-Pacific Heights and western addition.
- C, D and E are practically the same hill, with different local
- F-Hill region culminating in Twin Peaks. G-Made lands east of Montgomery street, where damage was
- heaviest.
- 1-City Hall. 2-New Post Office

SECOND SHOCK COMES.

ighter shock at \$ o'clock, which had shaker

down some walls already tottering and

taken the heart out of many of the people

in these two shocks and how many people

were killed will not be known for days

went down, burying their four or five people

of the greater ones, happened in an area

about two blocks wide south of Market

of little lodging houses, inhabited mainly

by sailors, interspersed with business

There seems to have been another centre

of disturbance in the Mission district, much

further west, and there was some loss of

life at that place. Further south and about

the Union Iron Works there is a district

known as the Potrero, housing a large

number of working families. This is on

made land, and report has it that the loss

of life there was heavy, yet so great is the

confusion that accurate information was

wanting even from a district se close at

hand before the closing down of martial

law and the burning of the telegraph build-

ings drove those who would communicate

with the East over to Oakland, across the

The Kingsley House, a crazy, cheap old

hotel on Seventh street, between Mission

and Howard, collapsed at the first shock.

Seventy-five people were buried in the

ruins. The firemen pulled some of them

out alive, but most of them must be dead

SMALL HOTELS COLLAPSE.

The earth literally rose under the Valencia

Hotel, in the Mission district, and the

building came down. How many were

killed there no one knows. The estimate

runs as high as a hundred. Another little

is reported by the police as down and

burning. In these little wrecks most of

the lives were lost. The great business

and municipal buildings were stripped

or went down with little loss of life owing

DEWEY'S SAUTERNE AND MOSELLE.

under the ruins.

- 8-United States Branch Mint. 4-Emporium Building (a large department store)
- 5-Academy of Sciences
- 6-New Baldwin Block.
- 7-Pioneer Hall. corners stand the tall buildings of the three number of three and four story brick busi- Further down, in the flats of the Hayes morning newspapers and the Mutual Bank

ness buildings which went down was too

great for any estimate. In the middle of the morning the whole Meantime there had been a second and call from San Francisco, came over on a special ferryboat. By that time there was a wall of fire between the waterfront and the main business district. They took who had hoped that the one shock would to the wharves and marched far to the end it. How many buildings went down south before they found a way through the fire and reached the San Francisco firemen who were still working without water to save the Palace Hotel. The Oakland men are known. Probably scores of little houses were distributed through the town to attend to the lesser fires, which were all spreadeach. These little disasters, and some ing to make San Francisco a city of flame. Every street was clogged with débris, so that often they had to out a way with axes street, the main thoroughfare running east to the waterfront. It is a district

## GAS SPREADS THE FIRES.

Now and again these would catch fire, making a great spurt of fire, which would catch in the débris. The first concern of the firemen was to stop these leakages. They piled on them bags of sand, dirt clods, even bales of cloth torn from the wreckage of burning stores. In the middle of the morning, however, there came a report from the south louder and duller than the reports of the dynamite explosions. There ollowed a burst of flame against the dull smoke. The gas works had blown up and the tanks were burning. After that the

But the fire had beaten the men at the Palace Hotel. The old redwood building was burning, and reaching out to the Ezaminer building at the corner of Third and Market streets, from which it was but a jump across the street to the big Call building. That structure, like the Palace earlier in the day, was menaced from the rear also by a fire which was burning the Grand Opera House and threatening St. Patrick's Cathedral. Already the fire was in a small building to the rear which houses the editorial rooms of the Call. The firemen dynamited a four story building housing railroad offices which stood between the Palace and the Examiner. That did not newspaper offices, who had reported for duty and were hanging on to the last, left the building, and with the rest of the people took to the hills. The east wing gave After all, Usher's the Scotch

Another centre of flame was California street, the financial district. Here the new Merchants' Exchange Building was threatened at last accounts, and a report which cannot be confirmed from this side, has it that the Mutual Life Building, valued at \$1,000,000, and the Anglo-California bank are burning. A great loss in the matter of sentiment is the destruction of the old adobe Mission Dolores, built more than a hundred years ago and the very nucleus of the old town of Yerba Buena. In that part of the Mission there is another fire which is sweeping away buildings wholesale. The streets of the Mission district are choked with débris.

## WATER GOT IN THE AFTERNOON

Men from the Water Department had been working all the morning to make connections between the lower city and the hill reservoirs. They got it in the afternoon; and at about the time when the soldiers enforced martial law on the city, when the business district had become almost one great conflagration, and the telegraph operators, the correspondents and the other people upon whom the world must depend for news of this catastrophe moved over to Oakland the firemen were getting some streams on the flames.

formation of this the gayest, most careless city on the continent into a wreck and a hell it is harder to write. That the day started with a blind, general panic goes without saying. People woke with a start to find themselves flung on the floor. In such an earthquake as this it is the human instinct to get out of doors, away from falling walls. The people stumbled across the floors of their heaving houses to find that even the good earth upon which they placed their reliance was swaying and rising and falling so that the sidewalks cracked and great rents opened in the

Valley, the fire ran fast through a thickly inhabited district of working people. In the midst of this district is St. Ignatius's Oakland fire department, answering a Church, the largest church on the Pacific Coast. This caught early and went up in a sheet of fire. Block after block in this part went up. The whole waterfront, except the fine big ferry building of the Southern Pacific Company burned to the ground, and this fire extended to the warehouse district, taking in the stores of the

Of the scenes which marked the trans-

an eternity of terror. Probably a dozen stinct for the ferry, since bey knew that

The eight o'clock shock, the heaviest after the big one, drove even those who